

For campus programs, use this form with all students in grades 7-11. **All students** must read and acknowledge their understanding of the eligibility rules and responsibilities. GEAR UP staff must also sign to acknowledge that they have communicated this information to the student. This is not a guarantee of scholarship funding.

Student Eligibility Rules

1. Students must have participated in one of the five programs in the NJ GEAR UP State Project in 7th grade and remain an active participant through 12th grade (as determined by the program directors) to be eligible for the NJ GEAR UP Scholarship.
2. Students must attend NJ, Title IV eligible, degree-granting institutions and be enrolled in an associate, bachelor's degree program. Students who enroll in an out-of-state institution at any time forfeit future eligibility for the NJ GEAR UP Scholarship.
3. First-year students must submit a completed request for high school transcript form with their scholarship form to receive funding. Returning students must submit an unofficial transcript.
4. The NJ GEAR UP Scholarship may be renewed for a maximum of 8 semesters for 4-year degree programs or 4 semesters for 2-year degree programs.
5. The NJ GEAR UP Scholarship is only available for fall and spring semesters. No summer payments will be made.
6. Part-time NJ GEAR UP funding is available to students only after an initial full-time payment has been awarded.
7. Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in accordance with NJ FAFSA requirements to be considered for the NJ GEAR UP Scholarship. The deadline is June 1 for students who have received a Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) in the previous year. For all other applicants, the FAFSA deadline is October 1 for fall and spring terms or March 1 for spring term only.
8. Students must apply for the NJ GEAR UP Scholarship and enroll in an eligible institution no later than the second fall semester following high school graduation to remain eligible for the NJ GEAR UP Scholarship.
9. Students transferring from one NJ GEAR UP eligible institution to another NJ GEAR UP eligible institution remain eligible for the NJ GEAR UP funding.
10. NJ GEAR UP scholarships are contingent upon federal funding.
11. In order to maintain NJ GEAR UP scholarship eligibility after the initial year of enrollment, students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in accordance with EOF standards at the institutions they attend.
12. Students who do not enroll for two consecutive semesters without requesting a leave of absence will permanently lose eligibility for the NJ GEAR UP scholarship.

Leave of Absence/Deferment - Students may request a one-time leave of absence for a maximum of two consecutive semesters for study abroad programs, documented medical reasons, and extreme family hardship. Requests for a leave of absence/deferment are handled on a case-by-case basis. The request must be submitted to CHE, in writing, prior to the period for which the leave of absence/deferment is required. Supporting documentation from the institution must be included.

13. Students must be United States citizens or eligible non-citizens and must be residents of the State of New Jersey pursuant to guidelines established by HESAA.
14. CHE will address other issues on a case-by-case basis. Student appeals regarding the loss of NJ GEAR UP funding for any reason shall be resolved by CHE.

Updated 12/22/09

See page 2 for signatures

The requirements for the scholarship have been explained to me and I understand the rules and requirements as listed above. I understand eligibility status is based on my continued participation in the GEAR UP program.

Student Name (print)

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Signature

Date

I confirm that I have explained the eligibility rules and requirements as listed above.

GEAR UP Director or Counselor Name (print)

Signature

Date

Once completed, the original copy of this form should be maintained with the student's file. Each student is only required to complete this form once time. Programs do not need to send a copy to CHE, but should be prepared to make signed forms available upon request.